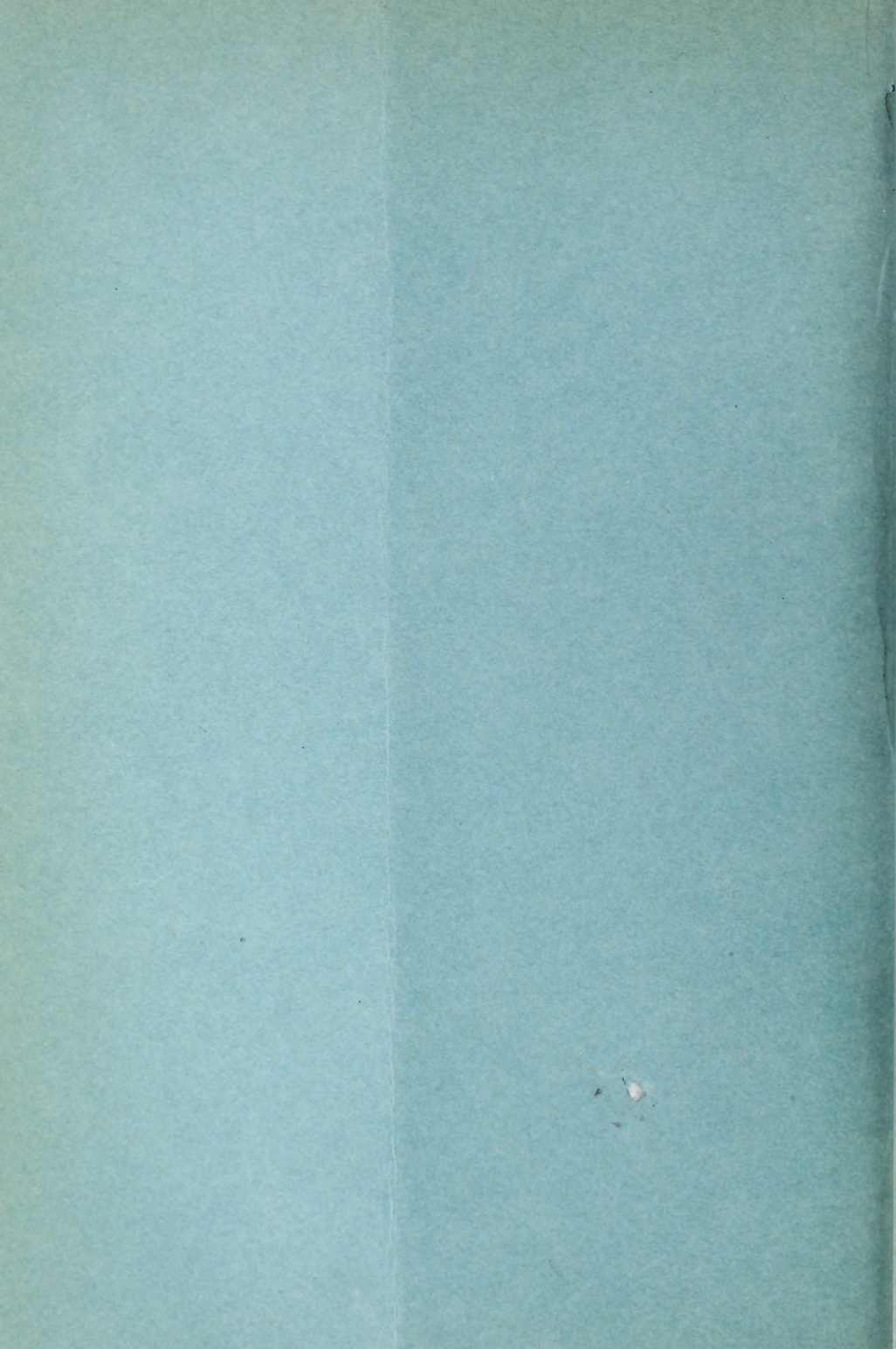


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Circ. 29

# *Vacation Trips*

*In the HOLY CROSS  
NATIONAL FOREST*



The view on the cover is a reproduction from a photograph of Castle Peak Lookout, in the Holy Cross National Forest. The view from the peak is especially fine. On clear days even Pikes Peak, over 100 miles away, may be seen.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR 29

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Contribution from the Forest Service

HENRY S. GRAVES, Forester



# *Vacation Trips*

*In the HOLY CROSS  
NATIONAL FOREST*

THE sight of the Mount of the Holy Cross is arresting and thrilling. Its crest, rising nearly 14,000 feet, is first seen just beyond the town of Pando by one who is traveling westward in Colorado on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. The automobilist gets his first glimpse of it shortly after leaving Tennessee Pass, at a point where the "Pikes Peak Ocean to Ocean Highway" crosses the bridge over Eagle River. Travelers who approach nearer and get the right angle of vision may see a still more wonderful sight—a scene of grandeur, and to some an experience even of sublimity and inspiration; for, lying upon the mountain side, outlined in the snow-filled clefts of the rocky slope, is a vast cruciform shape of glistening white. From this remarkable phenomenon the mountain gets its title, and from the mountain, the great forest tract, extending for miles around, is named the Holy Cross National Forest.

Here, in the scenic wonderland of the Rocky Mountains, with their snow-capped peaks, majestic forests, and tumbling streams, is one of the great playgrounds of America. Those who are seeking rest and recreation and prefer to spend their vacation in the open will find in this Forest many pleasant camp sites with abundant fuel, water, and forage. The hunter may still come upon big game in the more secluded parts of the mountains. The fisherman is sure of good sport on any of the fine streams and lakes which are stocked every year with young trout fry from State and Federal hatcheries. The Forest offers many opportunities for enjoyment to every sportsman and every lover of the mountains and the out-of-doors.



Glenwood Canyon.

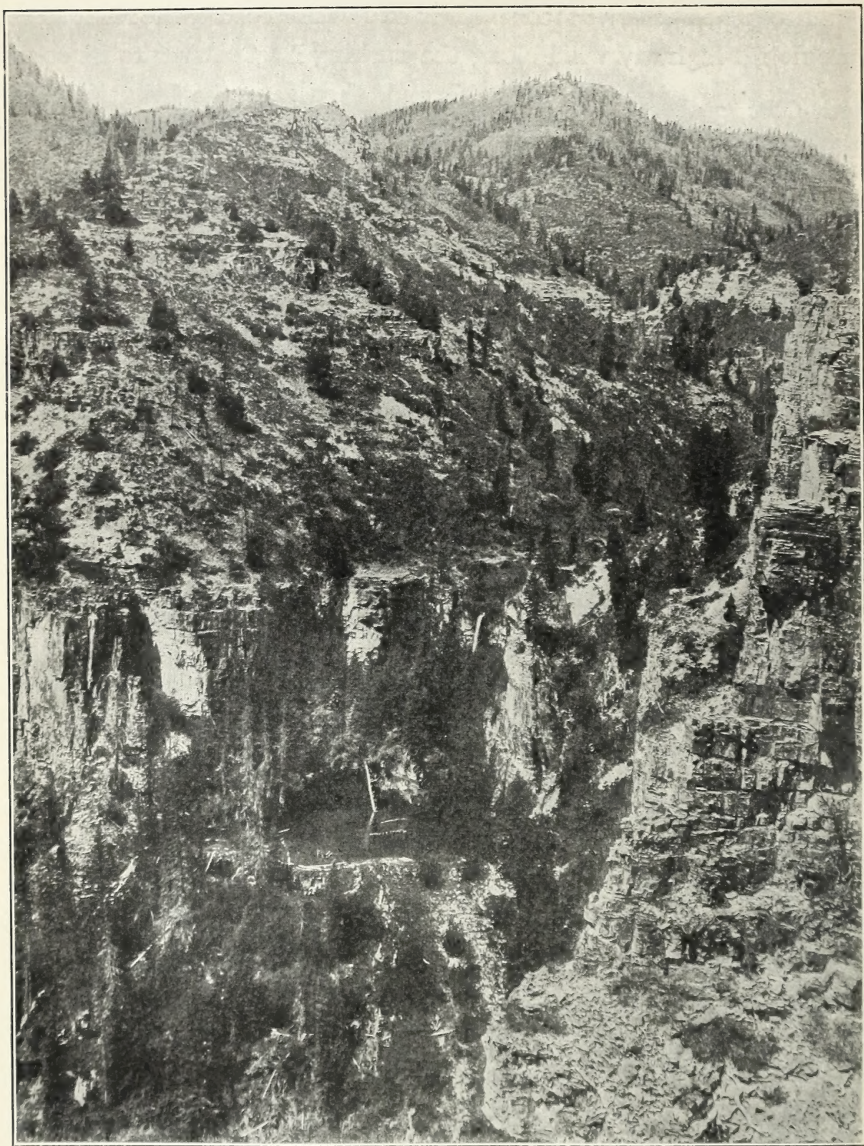


### SCENIC TRIPS.

From Red Cliff, a noted summer and fishing resort, the railroad and automobile highway wind along the rushing Eagle River to its confluence with the Grand, then into the beautiful Glenwood Canyon, where the Grand River tumbles and coils in frenzied madness between towering walls of granite, and out into Glenwood Springs with its shady walks and lanes lined with tall and stately poplars.

Glenwood Springs is one of the most noted tourist resorts in Colorado and the natural outfitting point for hunting, fishing, and camping parties going into the mountains. It also enjoys a wide reputation as a health resort. The hot springs have well-known medicinal qualities, and provide a constant supply of clear water for the great open-air swimming pool, which covers over an acre. In connection with the hot springs is a fine stone bathhouse and numerous vapor caves. Excellent hotel accommodations are available, and liberal stop-over privileges are allowed on all railroad and Pullman tickets.

Many interesting trips radiate from Glenwood Springs. A journey of 12 miles up Glenwood Canyon, over a good automobile road, includes Spouting Rock, an extinct volcano crater at Dotsero, Grizzly, and No Name Creeks, and Hanging Lake, which is reached by trail from Dead Horse Creek, a distance of 1 mile. The scenery along this route is unsurpassed. Canyon walls in many places tower hundreds of feet above, and the lake has the appearance of hanging on the side of the mountain. Geologists believe the lake to have been formed by deposits of lime accumulating on the side of the mountain through past ages. Spouting Rock Creek, which flows into the lake, and Bridal Veil Falls are also interesting features of the scene.



Hanging Lake.



Visitors to Glenwood Springs should not fail to make the trip to the Fairy Caves and Cave of the Winds. Both may be reached in an hour's time from town, either on foot or horseback.

**Fairy Caves and Hubbard's Caves.** A more extended trip may be made to Hubbard's Caves, from the entrance of which a magnificent view of Glenwood Canyon, 3,000 feet below, greets the eye of the traveler.

Elbo Lake, which is but 7 miles north of Glenwood Springs, is one of the beauty spots of the Holy Cross Forest. It lies hidden away in the midst of a magnificent forest of pines and spruces, with rugged peaks and canyon walls standing about like sentinels. A fairly good road and trail lead to the lake, and the round trip may be made in a short day. At Windy Point, on the trail, one hears the muffled roar of No Name Creek, more than 1,000 feet below.

Excellent camp grounds surround Elbo Lake, where those who enjoy the solitude of the mountains may pitch their tents and rest and fish to their heart's content.

The ascent of the Mount of the Holy Cross is the paramount scenic trip of the forest. From the summit of this beacon of the Rockies, up-jutting 13,978 feet into the sky, a sea of snow-capped mountain peaks, forested slopes, and mighty chasms lies spread out in endless array. Legend has it that the Indians were wont to make pilgrimages to the mount and worship at the foot of the cross of snow which Nature has placed in this beautiful and gigantic setting.

Until recently this peak has been inaccessible except to foot travel. A good trail has now been built by the Forest Service to within a mile of the summit. To make the trip to the Mount of the Holy Cross, one leaves the train or automobile at Red Cliff and covers the intervening 12 miles by saddle horse or on foot, the round trip being readily made in a day.



The Mount of the Holy Cross.



Another interesting scenic trip is to the Castle Peak fire lookout. Arrangements should be made to stop at Eagle, Colo., where horses may be secured. From there it is possible to **Castle Peak.** ride within a few hundred yards of the peak in a few hours. During the dangerous fire season a forest officer is stationed on Castle Peak, from which he overlooks the greater portion of the Holy Cross Forest. The lookout occupies an observatory on the pinnacle and keeps his eyes open for "smokes" and a telephone at his elbow ready to transmit warning to distant forest rangers.

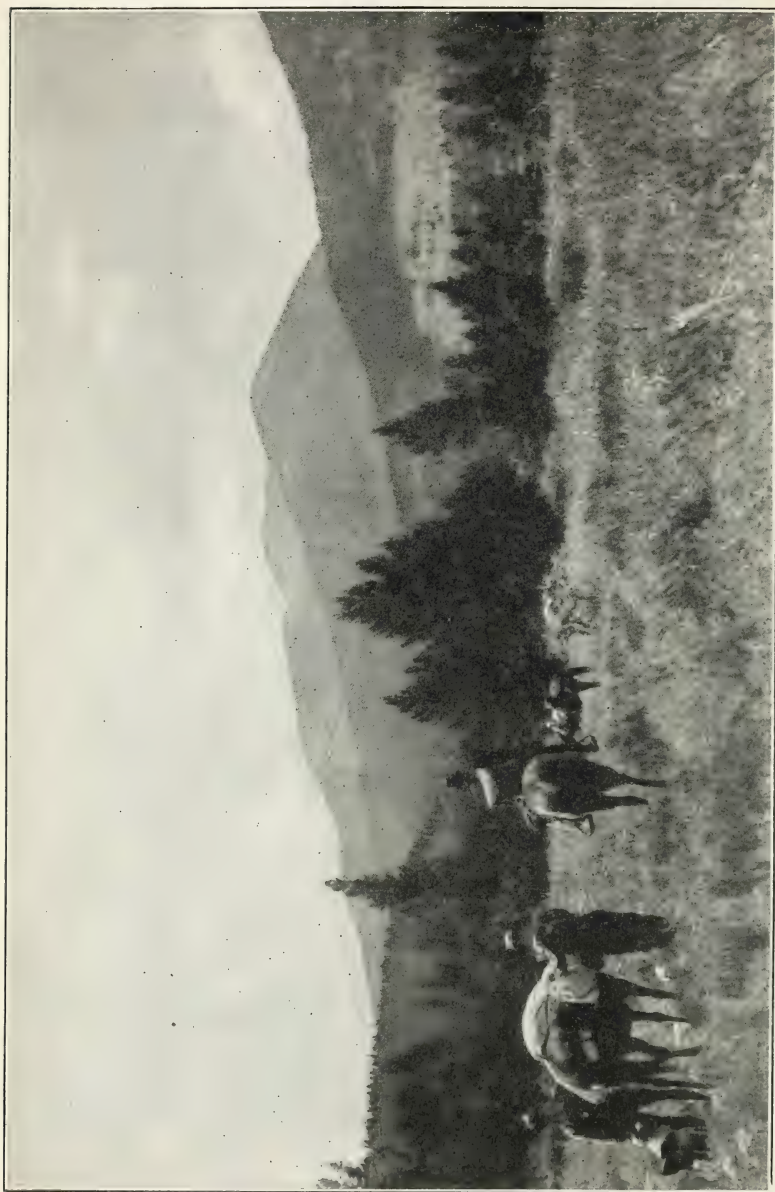
The view from Castle Peak is awe-inspiring. Within the vista to the southwest looms stately Mount Sopris; to the north may be seen Hahns Peak, another fire-outlook point 80 miles distant; to the northeast Longs Peak; and to the southeast Mount Massive, Mount of the Holy Cross, and numerous other noted beacons of the Rockies. On clear days even Pikes Peak, over 100 miles distant, may be seen.

The natural caves near the Yeoman Park Ranger Station on East Brush Creek contain both stalactites and stalagmites and are of considerable interest to geologists and sightseers.

**Other Points of Interest.** Piney Lake is especially attractive from a scenic standpoint. In its bright, sparkling waters are reflected the rugged, snowy peaks of the Sawtooth Range. Ideal camping sites are to be found around the shores of the lake, and the fishing is excellent. This lake may be reached by trail from Minturn.

### CAMPING.

One of the most delightful ways to spend a summer vacation is to camp out on the banks of a clear-running brook in the shade of the pines and spruces, and this Forest contains many such spots. Forest officers will be glad to give you detailed information about camp sites or camping trips. No charge is made for grazing camp animals, and you are welcome to use all the wood you need for fuel.



On the trail to the Mount of the Holy Cross. Notch Mountain in center background.



### **HUNTING.**

Firearms are permitted in National Forests, and big game may still be found in the more secluded parts of the mountains. Predatory animals, such as mountain lions, coyotes, and foxes, can be hunted at all times of the year. Other species of wild life are largely protected by the State game laws, copies of which may be secured from any forest officer. Licenses for hunting and fishing must be procured from the proper State officials. All forest officers are special game wardens and cooperate with the State in the enforcement of the game laws.

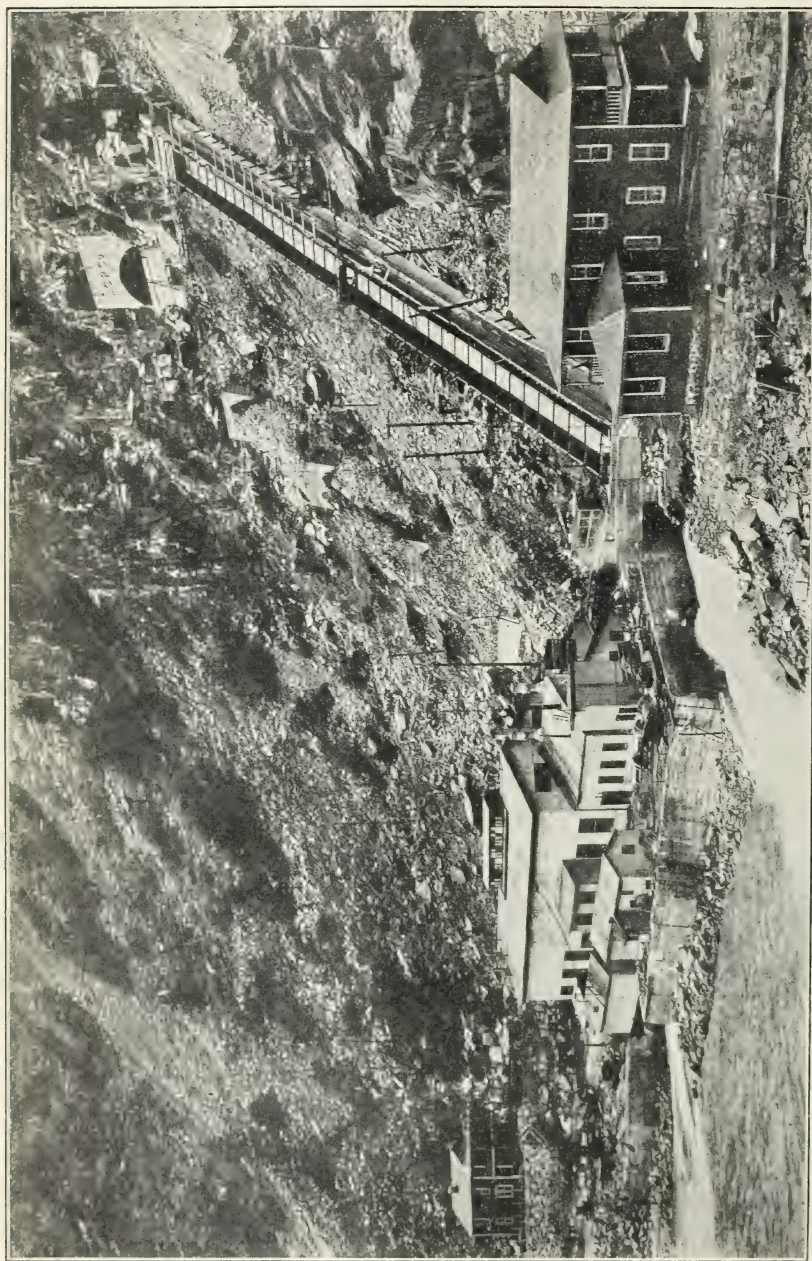
The Forest Service is taking action to protect and increase song birds, and many bird houses have been built by rangers in suitably located and protected places. Your cooperation in protecting our "feathered friends" will be appreciated.

### **FISHING.**

Colorado boasts of more than 500 lakes and 6,000 miles of streams in which there is good fishing, and there are many fine fishing waters on the Holy Cross Forest. The planting of young fish by the Forest Service, in streams and lakes not naturally stocked, has added much to the fishing possibilities. Thousands of trout fry, many of which come from the State hatchery at Glenwood Springs, are placed in the waters of the Forest each year, thus assuring keen sport to the angler.

### **SUMMER HOMES IN THE FOREST.**

In addition to the many camping and recreation grounds on the Holy Cross Forest, which are free to the public, there are numerous attractive building spots for the summer-home enthusiast. These may be found in beautiful Glenwood Canyon, or, if one desires to go into the wilder parts of the mountains, at Beaver Lake, 6 miles south of Avon; near Piney Lake, 14 miles northeast of Minturn; or at Elbo Lake, 7 miles north of Glenwood Springs. Information regarding permits for summer-home sites will be furnished gladly by forest officers.



Colorado Power Co.'s hydroelectric plant.



### **WATER POWER IN THE FOREST.**

Midway between Glenwood Springs and Hanging Lake is located the Colorado Power Co.'s hydroelectric plant, which is the largest in Colorado. The entire flow of the Grand River is used in generating electrical power at this point, and the minimum flow of this stream is inadequate for the needs of this important enterprise. Power generated at this plant is used for domestic and commercial purposes throughout the surrounding country and as far east as Denver.

A trip into the mountains helps one to realize what the protection of Forest watersheds from fire means to such industries as this. Along the edges of the timber in the higher country great drifts of snow, which are slowly melting and supplementing the flow of the Grand River, will be seen even in midsummer. Out in the open the snow is all gone, having been melted away by the first warm days of spring. One needs no scientific student to tell him that it is imperative that the drainage areas of the Grand River should be protected from fire to preserve an ample and uniform flow of water for power and other domestic and commercial purposes.

### **FIRE.**

Fire is the greatest enemy of our mountain forests. During the dangerous fire season the forest officers of the Holy Cross National Forest give fire protection precedence over all other work. All parts of the Forest may be communicated with by telephone from the Castle Peak lookout, at which an officer is on duty from daylight to dark. The prime objective is to learn of a fire in its incipency, and to be prepared with the necessary men and equipment to extinguish it. Each forest ranger has secondary lookout points and patrol routes on his district, but even with all these advantages and precautionary measures on the part of Government officials the cooperation of visitors to the Forest is necessary.

You may be the first to discover a fire, and no matter how small it is it should receive attention at once. If you can not put it out

yourself, look up the nearest telephone, get to it as quickly as possible, and call up a forest officer. If a toll call is involved when making a fire call, "central" should be requested to "reverse" the toll. The forest officials will gladly pay for the message, and will also appreciate this cooperation on your part.

More than half the fires which occur in the National Forests of Colorado are due to carelessness on the part of hunters, campers, or visitors. An unextinguished camp fire, a lighted match, or a cigar or cigarette butt carelessly thrown to one side may start a conflagration. Forest fires not only destroy valuable timber, but dry up the fishing streams, drive away wild life, and turn the beauty spots of Nature into desolate wastes. The laws impose a fine of \$500, or 12 months imprisonment, or both, for setting fire to timber, brush, or grass, or for leaving a camp fire without completely extinguishing it.

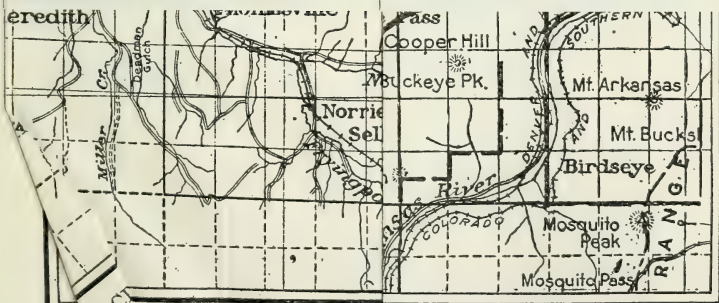
### **CLEAN UP YOUR CAMP.**

A good woodsman always maintains a clean camp, and burns or buries his tin cans and other refuse. Camp sanitation is of special importance in the Rockies where so many of the streams by which the visitor pitches his tent go to supply domestic water for the cities and towns of the plains. Carelessness in such matters is a menace to public health and can not be tolerated.

### **HOW TO REACH THE HOLY CROSS NATIONAL FOREST.**

The headquarters of the Holy Cross Forest, located at Glenwood Springs, is reached from Denver and Colorado Springs by the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. One may also make the journey by automobile over the "Midland Trail" from Denver, or the "Pikes Peak Ocean to Ocean Highway" from Colorado Springs. The former highway crosses the Continental Divide at Berthoud Pass at an elevation of 11,415 feet, and the latter at Tennessee Pass at an elevation of 10,276 feet. The northern part of the Forest may also be reached from Denver by the Denver & Salt Lake Railroad ("The Moffat Road").



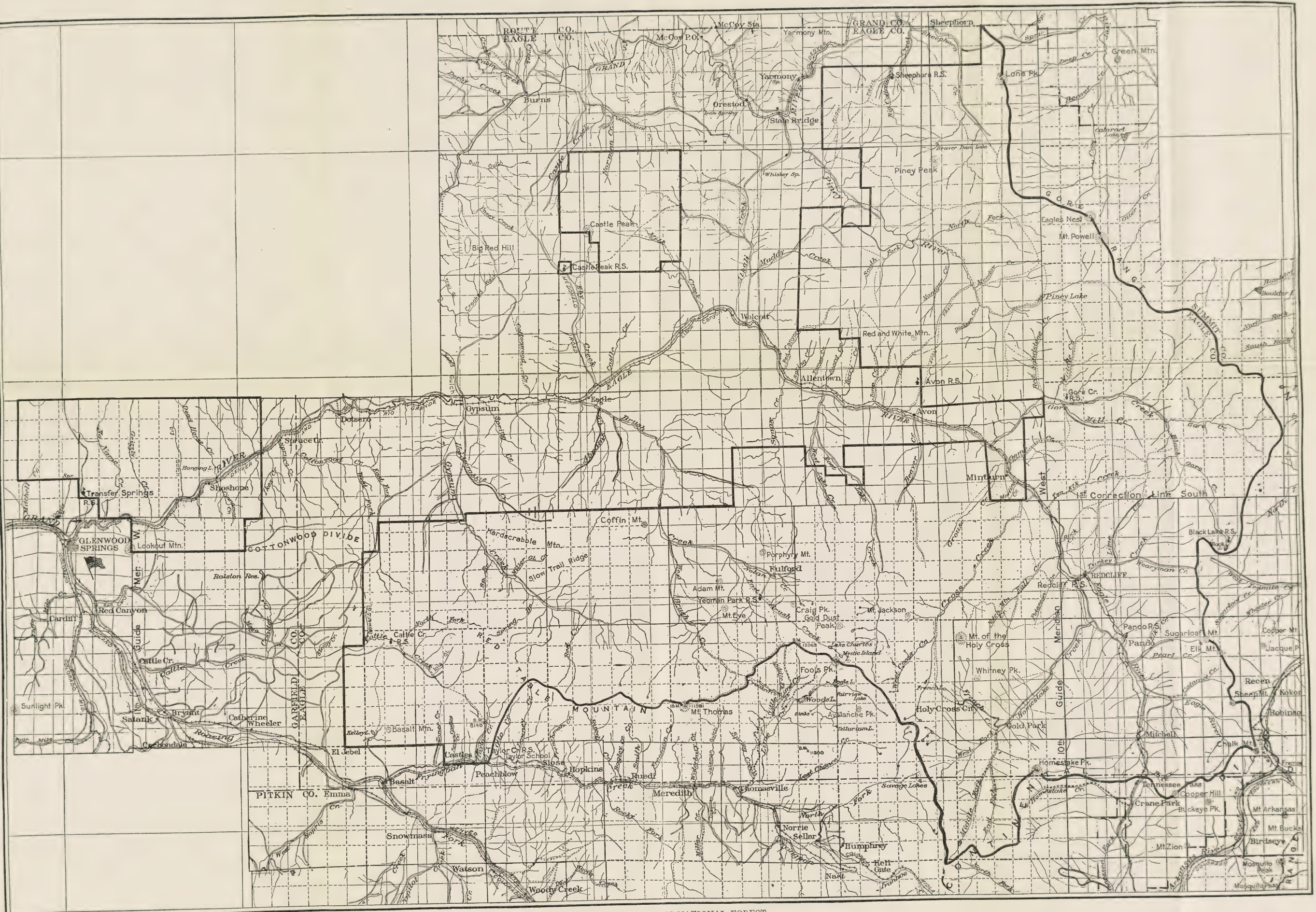


YONKAL FOREST.

es. present 6 miles on a side







MAP OF THE HOLY CROSS NATIONAL FOREST.

Solid black lines represent Forest boundaries. Large squares represent 6 miles on a side (a township).







### MAP OF THE HOLY CROSS FOREST.

A map of the Holy Cross National Forest will be found at the back of this booklet. On it are noted many scenic and recreational features which are especially deserving of your attention, together with the routes by which these points may be reached. The map also gives in graphic form information regarding roads, trails, camp grounds, fishing waters, and summer-home sites. A careful study of this map will be of great assistance in planning trips into the mountains. Additional information relative to the best routes of travel to reach points of interest to the tourist, sportsman, geologist, and lover of nature, may be obtained from the forest supervisor at Glenwood Springs.





